MAKE A BUCK –MAKE A BUCK

Let me start off by saying kids were given an allowance. I have to take that back for a moment. Junior and I would get a nickel on Saturdays when we were six and seven. After that no more handouts.

My father died in 1936 and my mother was sick for the rest of her life. We were on Welfare and lived on commodities from the state. Junior always had something going. He had a little paper route for a while and he sold Liberty Magazines for a nickel. A popular little magazine in the 30's and 40's. All of us were pretty much on our own as far as money goes.

In another story, I told about me and junior running away with the circus and working on the Midway. He was 10 and I was 9. Skipping ahead a little bit we are now 13 and 14. We would take my long home made wagon and walk all the way down town, about three or four miles to a saw mill near Central Ave. We would fill the wagon; about five feet long, with two to three bushel basket filled with saw dust. The guys wanted to get rid of it and we wanted it. We would take it home put a stopper in the bath tub put all the saw dust in. My memory doesn't tell me where we got the die probably ten or fifteen cents. We would heat buckets of water on the coal stove and dump the water in the tub stirring it until everything got green and wet. We didn't have to drain any water because the saw dust would soak it all up. I remember we had an old window shade and would spread the saw dust on it to dry a little. But I should have told you we were converting saw dust into moss for Christmas gardens. We would take it to Patterson Park Ave and Monument St. What ever we took we sold. It was about a week or two before Christmas when we sold out we would pull the wagon back home.

Then we would walk back to the Red Wing movie because Sonja Heine the world champion ice skater was playing for about three days. She was blonde and pretty and Junior was madly in love with her. We would stay until the movie closed at 11pm. And that was every night. (Junior was in love)

We sold the moss three quarts for a nickel. Some nights we could make a dollar all together. For fifty cents we got in the movie two sodas two candy bars and two pop corns.

We saw other people selling moss the year before and a decent old man told us how to make it. Make a buck; make a buck as Lorraine would say. My name was Brother Martin he was Junior. Who could have known four years later he would be killed in the war.

Jim